

Crime Scene Investigators

A WebQuest for The Cell

Introduction

Since the advent of popular television shows that depict crime scene investigators at work, the field of forensic science has become very popular with the public at large. But what, exactly, is forensic science? What is it like to investigate a crime using scientific methods? In this WebQuest, you will learn about forensic scientists and the work that they do. Then, you will either create or investigate a crime scene.

Task

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is training forensic scientists for work in the field. Your task is either to set up a crime scene for the scientists in training or to test the fictional crime scene to ensure that it will provide good practice for the scientists in training.

Process

Use the resources listed in the Resources section to begin your research. The Web sites listed are good starting points, but further Internet research will be necessary. Record your answers to the following questions. You will use them to set up or investigate a crime scene and then write a report at the end of the project.

1. What do forensic scientists do?
2. What are the different branches within the field of forensic science?
3. What kinds of technology do forensic scientists use?
4. Where do forensic scientists work?

Creation of Crime Scene/Police Report

Once you have completed your research, your “crime scene team” will split up. Two of the team members will create a crime scene, complete with forensic evidence. The rest of the team will examine the evidence at the scene and write a police report that draws conclusions about the evidence. The police report should include details of the crime, and the evidence that was gathered. Use your research to determine what kind of evidence should be used to draw conclusions in the report.

The team members who create the crime scene will also write a report. The report will detail what kinds of forensic evidence was placed at the scene and why it was included. The rationale for including evidence should be supported by information from research.

Resources

[Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)

[Central Intelligence Agency](#)

[Forensic Magazine](#)

[The New York Times Archive: Forensic Science](#)

[DNA Forensics](#)

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Evaluation

Read this rubric to see how you will be scored on this activity.

Criteria					Points
	0	5	10	15	
Task	The task was not completed.	It appears that some effort was made to complete the task, but major ideas were missing.	The task was completed as assigned, but some of the rationale for including or interpreting evidence was faulty.	The task was completed with great attention to detail and thorough documentation.	
Process	The process was not followed.	The process was followed, but not all of the questions were answered.	The process was followed, and the premise behind the creation and interpretation of the crime scene was sound.	It is clear that much research went into the project. The ideas showed a high degree of originality and imagination.	
Creation of Crime Scene and Report on Crime Scene	The report was sloppy and not well prepared.	The crime scene and report included some evidence, but it lacked general cohesiveness.	The crime scene and report included a more complete set of evidence, but it did not point to a coherent conclusion.	The crime scene and report included a complete set of evidence that pointed to a coherent conclusion.	
Gathering of Evidence and Police Report	The police report was sloppy and not well prepared.	The police report included some of the evidence, but the interpretation of the evidence was incorrect.	The police report included all of the evidence, but the interpretation of some of the evidence was incorrect.	The police report included all of the evidence, and the interpretation of all of the evidence was correct.	
Total Score					